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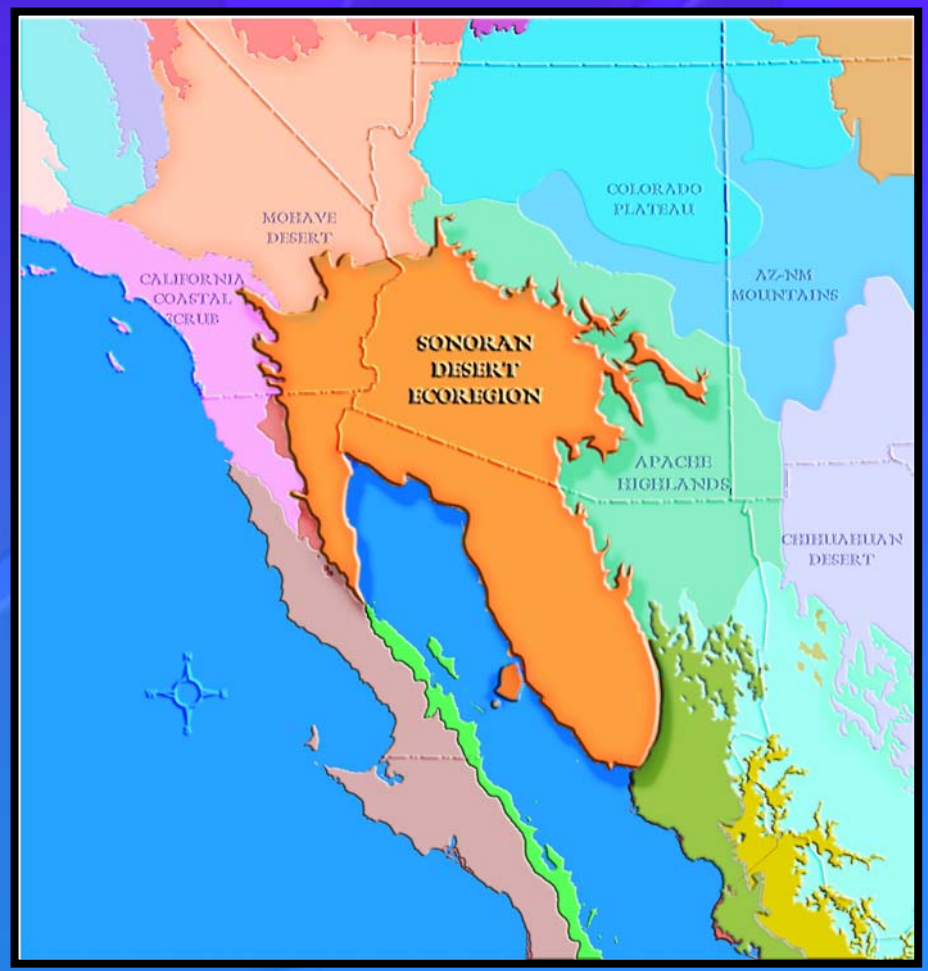
Sonoran Desert Ecosystem Initiative

Partners

- Department of Defense (DoD)
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- The Nature Conservancy
- Sonoran Institute



Funding

- DoD Legacy, BLM, and Private

Conservation Approach

- Setting PRIORITIES
- Developing STRATEGIES
- Taking Direct Conservation ACTION
- MEASURING Conservation Success

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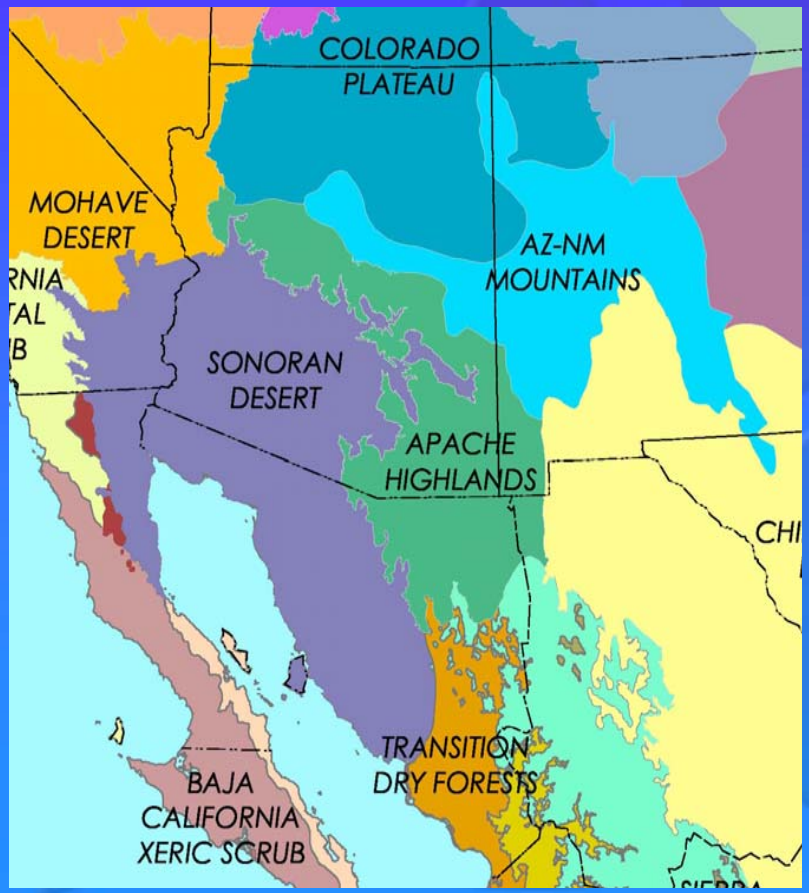
Setting Priorities through Ecoregional Analysis

Arizona's Five Ecoregions



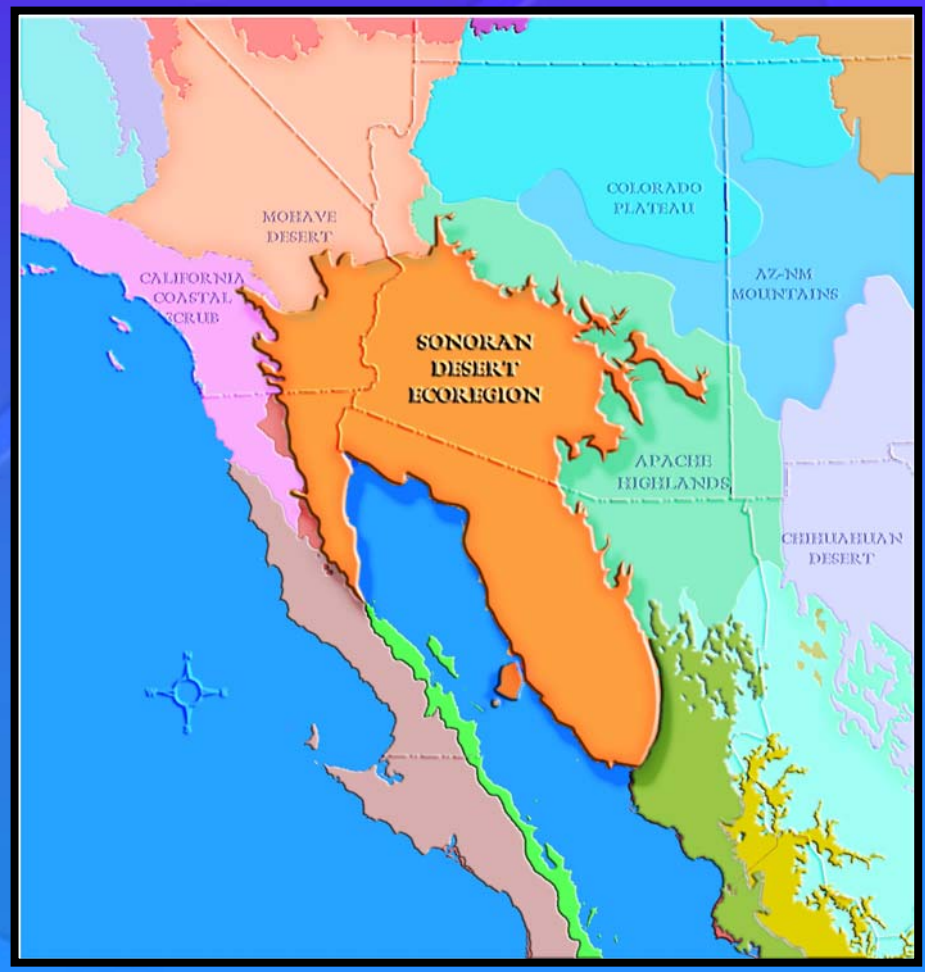
Ecoregional Analyses

(Year of completion)

- AZ-NM Mountains (1998)
- Mohave Desert (2000)
- Sonoran Desert (2000)
- Colorado Plateau (2002)
- Apache Highlands (2003)

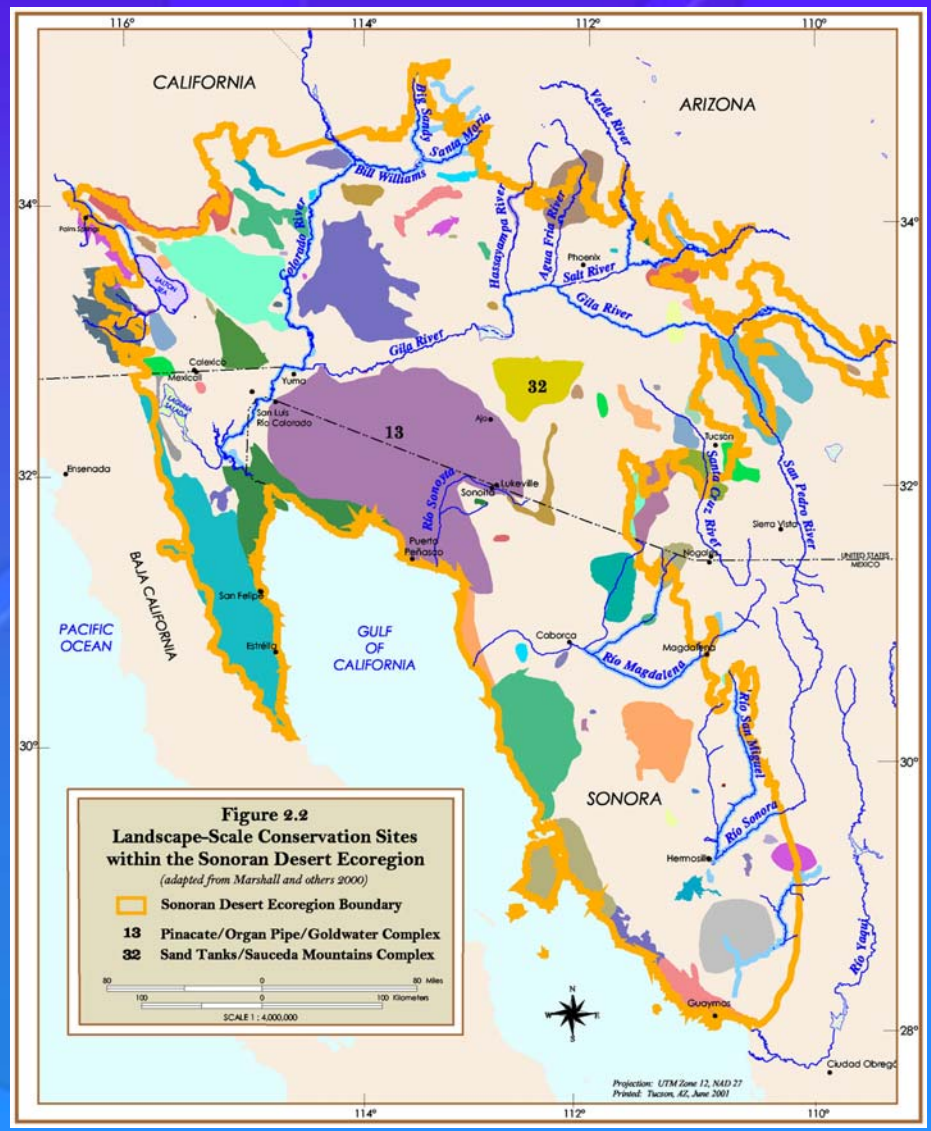
Sonoran Desert Ecoregion: Unique Circumstances and Approach

- Bi-national Ecoregion ⇒ Bi-national Effort
- Extensive Partner Involvement
- Extensive Public Support for Conservation ⇒ Outreach Program
- Public Funding ⇒ Public Products



Ecoregional Conservation Goal

Identify a network of conservation areas that, with appropriate management, will ensure the long-term persistence of most of an ecoregion's biological diversity



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Land Management Summary for Conservation Areas (CAs)

Land Manager/Owner	Acres w/in Ecoregion	% of Ecoregion	Acres Identified w/in CAs	Total No. CAs per Land Cat.
Mexico Private/Communal Land	23,064,090	41.8	9,094,931	40
Bureau of Land Management	9,226,331	16.7	3,176,553	50
U.S. Private Land	5,385,109	9.8	1,157,036	57
U.S. Tribal Land	3,998,746	7.2	739,772	21
U.S. Department of Defense	**3,198,015**	**5.8**	**2,287,224**	**15**
U.S. State Trust Land	3,087,365	5.6	666,547	44
Mexico Biosphere Reserves	2,792,019	5.1	2,738,253	5
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	1,623,914	2.9	1,522,879	8
Mexico Proposed Protected Areas	944,418	1.7	777,491	10
U.S. Forest Service	869,025	1.6	347,064	8
U.S. National Park Service	401,570	<1	389,659	8
U.S. State Parks	345,092	<1	189,385	10
The Nature Conservancy	23,761	<1	21,312	6
Total	**54,959,455**		**23,108,106**	

Developing Conservation Strategies

Example: Applying Conservation Planning Concepts to Federal Land Management

- Identify Focal Ecological Systems and Species at all Scales (Conservation Targets)
- Evaluate Threats
- Develop Threat Abatement Strategies
- Identify Desired Conditions
- Develop Success Measures/Adaptive Management Protocols

Outcomes:

- Increased Degree to which Biodiversity is Addressed
- Improved Biodiversity Management on Federal Lands

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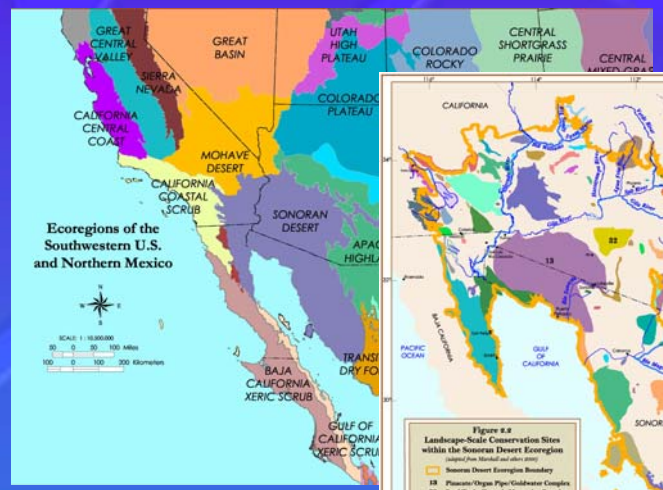
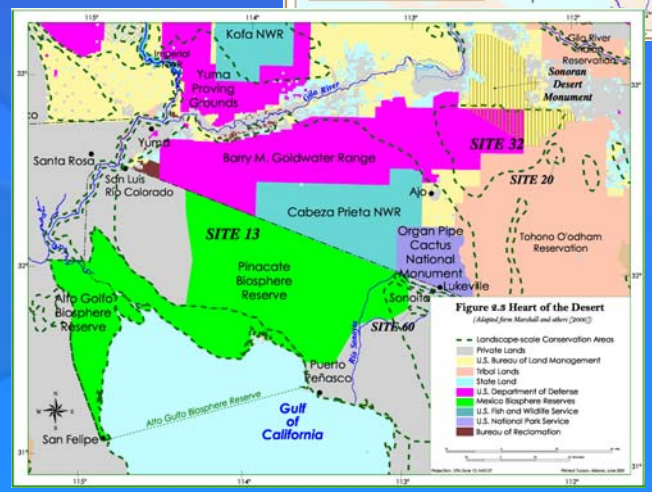
Taking Action

Why Start with the Barry M. Goldwater (BMGR) Range?

- DoD-TNC Partnership
- Ecoregional Analysis Identified Significance
- Sikes Act/MLWA of 1999
- New Role for DoD Agencies
- Conducive Planning Context for Biodiversity Management Framework Development
- Opportunities to Foster a Larger Conservation Vision





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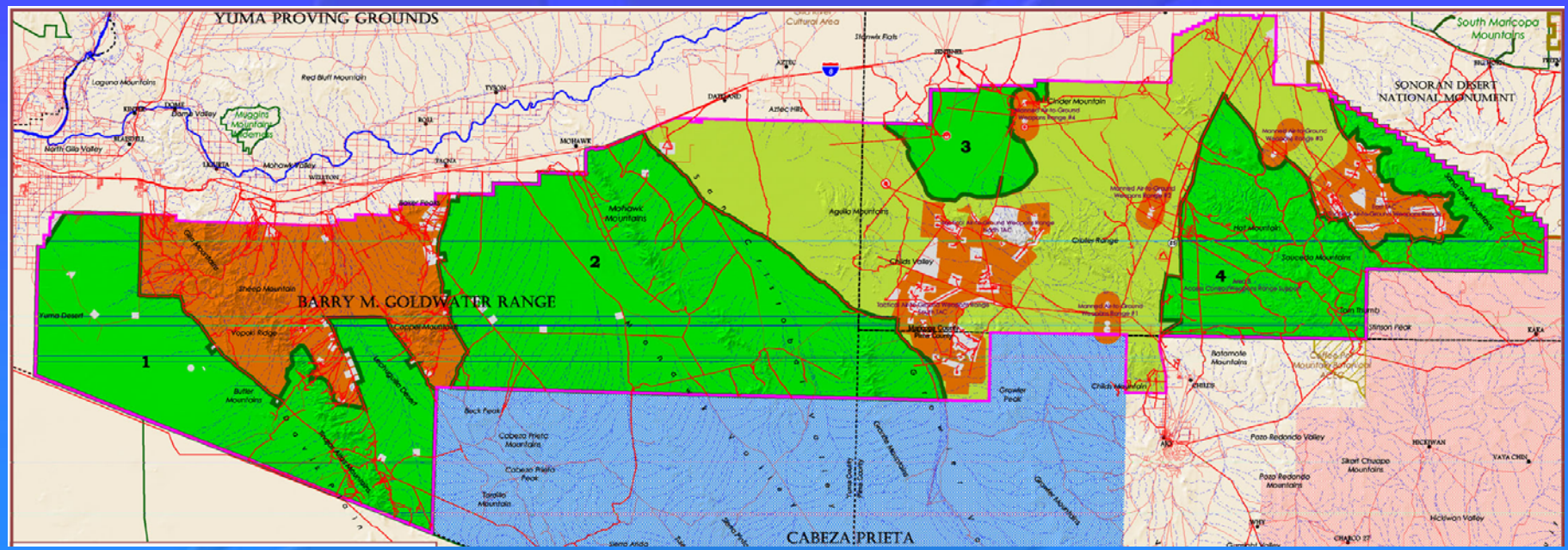
One Outcome of the Biodiversity Management Framework Development Process for the BMGR

Identification of Land Management Categories



What are Measures of Conservation Success?

(Benefits to Agencies of Framework Implementation)

- Ecosystem Function Becomes the Foundation for Decision-making
- Proactive Management Approach and Commitment to Management Standards Establish Credibility
- Coordinated Management, Including Monitoring, Occurs Across Jurisdictions
- Equitable Distribution of Management Responsibilities is Achieved

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Next Application: Sonoran Desert National Monument

- BLM Planning Process, Mission, and Monument Proclamation
- Socioeconomic Information
- Unique Monument Conditions;
  - Continuity with BMGR Conservation Targets
- Coordinated Management and Ecosystem-based Monitoring Opportunities
- Preliminary Assessment of Kofa Complex, Including Yuma Proving Ground, for Framework Development